

Chapter 8: Software for Windows 2000

In this chapter we first discuss software licensing issues, followed by information on:

- where/how to find software useful to your job functions
- purchasing software
- installing and removing software

8.1 Software Licensing

Whether or not you need a license to use a software product depends upon how the software is distributed. Software distribution categories include: commercial, shareware, freeware, and public domain. We describe them briefly in section 8.1.2 *Software Distribution Categories*. First, in section 8.1.1 *License Types*, we discuss the license types. Note that software licensing terms and conditions change frequently.

The CD acts as software distributor to the groups they support. They maintain a database of the licensed software used by members of supported groups for the purposes of managing upgrades, coordinating bulk purchases to get favorable pricing, and managing licenses.

8.1.1 License Types

The software that the Computing Division provides for W2K users is all legally licensed according to one of the following license types:

- Specified multi-user license: licensed for use by a specified number of identified users (concurrently or not); no one else can run it
- Individual license: licensed for use by a particular identified workstation

8.1.2 Software Distribution Categories

Commercial

Commercial software represents the majority of software purchased from software publishers. It is virtually always copyrighted. The licensing restrictions vary somewhat vendor to vendor and product to product, and change frequently. It is generally more expensive than competing shareware products. Often evaluation copies are available, but they usually have a built-in “time-bomb” wherein after a certain number of days the product will no longer work unless you key in a valid license number.

Shareware

Shareware is marketed by freely distributing a limited or fully functional version of the product, usually via the Web, for evaluation by potential users. Like commercial software, shareware products are generally copyrighted and must be purchased for continued use. The licensing of shareware usually operates more by the honor system than by embedded time-bombs, but is still legally required. The licensing restrictions are usually a little looser than those for commercial products in the area of redistribution, but they vary from product to product.

Freeware

Freeware is distributed freely without a license fee (notice we didn’t say “without a license”), usually via the Web. Like commercial software and shareware, freeware products are generally copyrighted. Thus restrictions on use and redistribution may apply, and they vary from product to product.

Public Domain

A software product becomes public domain when the copyright holder relinquishes the rights to it. Software in this category has no fee and no licensing restrictions associated with it.

8.2 Windows Software at Fermilab

The rule of thumb at Fermilab regarding new software is that users should always confirm software purchases with their OU administrator, and should never install new software without discussing it with this person. Typically, each department/group at the lab has software that it recommends or provides for its members, appropriate for the group’s tasks.

The FERMI domain includes servers for individual OUs, each maintained by an administrator of the OU. The servers generally have an area set aside in which the latest versions of applications are stored. These applications may include freeware, shareware and/or commercial products, and often are specific to the types of functions people in that OU perform. Access to a given product by authorized users of the server is restricted according to the product's licensing agreement.

The CD maintains a web page showing the results of compatibility tests they've conducted on W2K for commonly-used Windows products. See <http://www-toc.fnal.gov/compatibility.htm>.

8.3 Purchasing Software Products

You may occasionally find that none of the provided software meets a particular need, in which case you'll have to obtain a product that does. You may be satisfied with one of the freeware or public domain offerings, or you may need to purchase a shareware or commercial product. Once you've determined which product you need (and have received approval for purchasing it), we strongly recommend that you submit your request through your OU administrator. He or she can verify that the software you're ordering is compatible with your environment, and tell you whether the application runs on W2K. The OU administrator can also either order the product for you or provide guidance on the procedure you should follow.

8.4 Installing Software Products

The CD recommends that you contact your OU administrator to find out if there are any particular guidelines you should follow before you install any software on your machine. Further, we recommend that you install any products you obtain independently into a programs folder that you maintain on your local hard drive. Be careful to keep the original media.

Software that is installed on a W2K client system for use by multiple users on that specific machine should have the shortcuts placed in the 'All users' profile area (typically configured to be under `C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Start Menu\Programs`). This area is seen by all users when they log into the machine. Some applications may have trouble with this, in which case other users will have to find the software without the benefit of shortcuts, or they can create their own shortcuts.

Many supported users do not have the authorization (or the inclination!) to install products, and they need to contact their local OU administrator to perform the install. For those of you who *do* have authorization and who prefer to install the software yourselves, again, please contact your OU administrator first.

8.5 Removing Software Products

Whenever a program is installed, entries get made in the registry. The registry is the database used by Windows W2K (and by Windows NT/95/98) to keep track of settings for all the installed programs, as well as for the OS settings. When you're ready to uninstall a product, you want to make sure that all of its "tentacles" get removed from the registry properly in order to keep the registry, and thus the system, working properly and efficiently. Using the W2K *Add/Remove Programs* feature is your best bet for accomplishing this.



We strongly discourage users from attempting to edit the registry directly; a single bad edit may cause the operating system to fail or to be unable to boot, sometimes requiring reinstallation of the operating system.

The W2K *Add/Remove Programs* feature is found on the Control Panel (select **START, SETTINGS, CONTROL PANEL, ADD/REMOVE PROGRAMS**), and shown below. Select *Install/Uninstall*, as shown, choose the product you want to remove, and click on **ADD/REMOVE**. As a safety feature, a pop-up screen asks you to confirm that you want to remove this product before the system goes ahead.

If you have trouble removing a product, or you observe incorrect behavior on your system after removing a product, contact toc-group@fnal.gov for assistance.